

MIRACLES

then and now

PART 2: MYSTERY AND INCONSISTENCY

The early church prayed desperately for a miracle and was shocked when it actually happened. As modern readers, we're confronted with the tension between faith, fear, and trusting God when outcomes feel wildly inconsistent.

CONNECT

What's your default expectation when you pray: optimism, skepticism, or "we'll see"?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Watch the full message sometime this week as a reminder of what you talked about today.

APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Have you ever been confused by or discouraged by God's apparent inconsistency?
2. Even people who saw the resurrected Jesus were shocked when God intervened. How does that reshape your expectations of God?
3. The early church's experience with miracles was personal and painful. Where have you felt that same tension between faith and disappointment?
4. In **Luke 22:42**, Jesus prays, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." How does his prayer influence our understanding of faith and miracles?
5. The people who inspire our faith most aren't miracle machines—they're faithful despite unanswered prayers. Who, if anyone, has modeled that kind of faith for you?

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Pay attention to times you see what feels like the inconsistency of your heavenly Father. Bring those moments to him and ask him to increase your trust and dependency on him.

PRAY

Invite God to grow resilient faith in you—the kind that follows faithfully, regardless of the outcome. Pray for the courage to trust God's care more than your desired result.